United Nations A/61/520

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 October 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda items 27, 90 (s), (t), (y) and (aa)

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

General and complete disarmament: problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus; conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels; the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects; transparency in armaments

Letter dated 16 October 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the comments of the Ministry of Reintegration of the Republic of Moldova on the statements of the Russian General Boris Sergeyev regarding the weapons in the Cobasna arms dumps (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 27, 90 (s), (t), (y) and (aa) of the agenda of the sixty-first session.

(*Signed*) Alexei **Tulbure**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 16 October 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comments of the Moldovan Ministry of Reintegration on Russian General Boris Sergeyev's statements on weapons in the Cobasna arms dumps

(Chisinau, 16 October 2006)

Recently, local and foreign media have quoted Commander of the Operative Group of Russian Forces (OGRF), General Boris Sergeyev, as saying that the Russian arms dumps had been inspected by a group of generals and officers of the Russian Ministry of Defence. According to the same source, the group of officers had unearthed no cases of weapons or armament that had disappeared, or inappropriate armament-storing conditions. It was also said that 21,500 tons of armament remain stocked at the Cobasna arms dumps.

In the context, the Ministry of Reintegration draws the attention of national and international public opinion to the fact that the data provided by the Russian side can be confirmed by no other source. The real content of the stock of armament is also not known. Despite repeated efforts taken by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Permanent Delegation of Moldova to OSCE and the OSCE mission to Moldova, the Cobasna arms dumps continue to be inaccessible for any international inspection whatsoever. Hence, neither the Moldovan Government nor the international community represented by competent international organizations have any real data about the quantity and list of ammunition stocked in Cobasna.

In these circumstances, we consider as irrelevant the information based on OGRF sources and we reiterate the need to conduct an international inspection at the Russian Federation's arms dumps situated in Moldova in order to keep transparent the process of storing and withdrawing the armament. Moldova will press ahead with diplomatic and political efforts within OSCE, as well as within the entire OSCE community in order to ensure the effective international monitoring of armament-storing conditions and the process of withdrawing ammunition and armament from Moldova.